



INTERNATIONAL RADIO NETWORK NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

Website: <https://irn.radio>

Email: irnhamradio@gmail.com

Welcome

Welcome to the 5th edition of this monthly newsletter from the IRN. It's hard to believe that it is September already and we are now officially in the Autumn season, or the Spring season for our members on the other side of the world!

It is wonderful that we can celebrate having thousands of members from all around the world, and that we can use the various platforms and connections on the IRN to connect and communicate with others, share information and get to know each other.

Speaking of getting to know each other, our first article in the newsletter this month comes from our very good friend, Beverly IRN5401, who shares a short story about a wonderful couple from Florida, that is Beverly and Terry Stroebel, IRN5401 and IRN5400. We all so much appreciate hearing Beverly and Terry checking-in so regularly to our Nets on the IRN, and thanks to Beverly, we learn a little more about who they are.

Also included in this newsletter is another brilliant contribution from Doug VE3XDB. This month, Doug provides a fantastic review of the AllScan UCI120 USB communications Interface. I have heard Doug using this on-air, and it sounds great. We very much appreciate the regular contributions from Doug to the Newsletter.

Myself and Helen Queen of Scotland had the great pleasure of meeting with Greg N4RAI, his wife Kristi and one of his sons, Kevin, this month in Stirling, Central Scotland.

Greg is a regular on our Friday IRN KB1 Multimode Net. They are on a 2-week tour around Scotland and so it was so great to have the opportunity to meet in person while they are on this side of the pond. After our meeting, they were intending to conclude their tour by visiting the west coast and the Isle of Skye. I am looking forward to speaking with Greg, and hoping that they never encountered the Scottish midge on the west coast!

As always, I want to thank all the contributors to the newsletter, it is very much appreciated. We welcome contributions from all members for our future newsletters and details can be found at the end about how to send in your own contributions and suggestions.

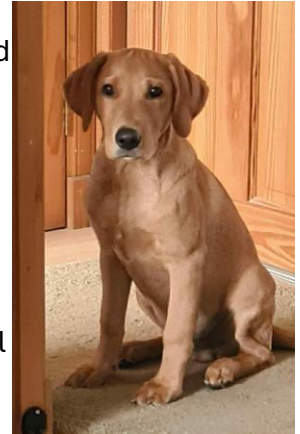


We also welcome contributions to the **IRN Facebook page**. We love to read about equipment reviews and your own experiences, special events held in your area, club activities, as well as personal stories about what is going on with you and yours, interesting things you are up to, and we do always welcome pictures of your pets. We do love our critters on the IRN. If you are not already a member of the Facebook Group, then here is the link to join.....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1245420475608672>

Finally from me, an update from HQ here in Central Scotland on our new Station Manager – Odin, our fox red Labrador – Odin is now 4 months old and in complete control of everything! Helen and I arrange our day-to-day activities around Odin's daily pattern of sleeping, playing, running, jumping, eating, hugging, chewing, zooming, training, destroying, walking, peeing, pooing, scratching, loving, biting and generally being a very spoiled puppy!

In the 9 weeks we have had Odin, he has trebled in weight and we have just got him his 3rd collar and a new lead that can handle his growing size and will hopefully last a long time.



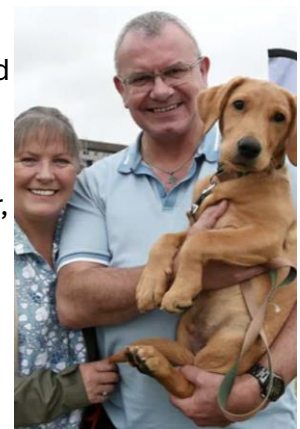
We have recently taken Odin across the border and into England, when we visited the island of Lindisfarne, the Holy Island in Northumberland. The road to the Holy Island is via a causeway, that is only accessible for 2 six-hour periods each day. We also attended other activities, including a dog show in Grangemouth, Scotland, where our picture appeared in the local newspaper, so that last picture is taken from the Falkirk Herald, making Odin famous locally.

That's it from me for now.

Enjoy the newsletter, I am sure you will, and sending best wishes to all members of the IRN.

73

Graham M Matthews GM0UUB
IRN President



Meet Beverly and Terry

By Beverly Stroebel, IRN5401, Zephyrhills Florida



Terry Stroebel was born and raised in Ft. Wayne, IN. Attended Southside HS and ventured into the mechanical field with his father. Terry took an interest in welding as he repaired and sold used vehicles (entering a few in Ft Wayne Rod & Custom Shows). He was very good at painting vehicles and was painting vehicles on the side for friends and relatives.

In 1971 he met me, Beverly Hobbs. Beverly was born and raised in Vine Grove, Ky. Attended North Hardin HS and Elmhurst HS. They met on a blind date arranged by friends. They spent our time working on cars together, cruising the

local area in sporty cars. They were married in 1980 and moved to Florida in 1983. Beverly worked in offices for a small HVAC company for approximately 15 years and then for a Lighting Company for approximately thirteen years becoming an account manager.

They enjoyed gardening, fishing, boating, snorkelling, racing slot cars, riding motorcycles and 8 ball (billiards).



They refurbished an old doublewide on ten acres which took most of their days off work. It was fun but a lot of work (planing, cutting, staining all the lumber for cabinets, fabricating ductwork and building a roof over). They had chickens and Pork Chop a pet pot bellied pig. Along came hurricanes and then mould invasion where most of our belongings and photos were ruined. They then sold the ten acres to the neighbor and found a house in Zephyrhills.

As years passed, they retired and now into crafts, cooking, cell phone games and the IRN GMRS networks.

Product Review: Allscan UCI120 USB Communications Interface

By Doug Behl VE3XDB

The AllScan UCI120 USB communications Interface is a professional-grade yet affordable USB Audio/PTT communications interface for AllStar, EchoLink, and other PTT communications applications. Developed jointly by David NR9V and Mark G1LRO, the UCI120 is intended to be used with communications



microphones, speakers, and other audio equipment. The UCI120 does not interface with radio transmitters or receivers, but connects directly to the Allstarlink node using a USB cable. For a more detailed discussion on Allstarlink, please refer to the July edition of the IRN Newsletter (<https://irn.radio/newsletter/2025-07.pdf>). To quickly recap, Allstarlink is a powerful open-source system that allows users to connect their devices over the internet, enabling communication between different nodes. It allows connections to various networks, including the IRN, making it possible to communicate with fellow radio amateurs around the world.

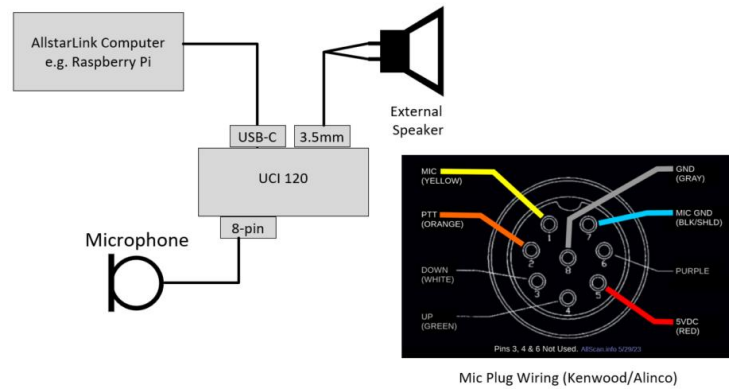


To use Allstarlink, users must connect to the system, and there are several ways to do it. On the sending side, a device connects to a node, which in turn connects to the internet. Depending on the node, the device could connect using RF, Wi-Fi, cellular phone service, or a direct connection. For example, an amateur radio operator using a Shari node with a built-in FM transceiver would typically connect to Allstarlink using a 70cm FM transceiver. Additionally, Android applications like DVSwitch Mobile allow connections via Wi-Fi or cellphone service, and some devices connect directly to the Allstarlink node using a USB cable. On the receiving side, the process is reversed, with the signal traveling from the internet to the Allstarlink node before being heard on the device.

The UCI120 connects directly to the Raspberry Pi acting as the Allstarlink node via a USB cable, and setup is straightforward.

So far, we have been focusing on Allstarlink. It is also easy to set up EchoLink, as there is a built-in module within Allstarlink that only

requires activation and user credential updates. For those interested in using DMR or other digital modes, installing DVSwitch on the Raspberry Pi provides a simple solution, and the UCI120 makes DMR sound great!



The UCI120 features comprehensive LED indicators that display USB host status, Mic PTT (ASL COS), Mic Signal & Clip, and RX (ASL PTT), facilitating easy monitoring and adjustment of mic input levels. It offers a 50dB gain adjustment range through Mic Gain Adjust and Mic Boost controls, accommodating various communication microphones. The TRRS Line Out jack supports stereo TRS line out and an external mic input with switchable bias voltage for electret mics and headsets. Additionally, the Insert I/O Jack allows integration with external audio processors, channel strips, mixers, and other audio systems. The UCI120 is equipped with internal trimmer potentiometers and DIP switches for fine-tuning mic preamp and AGC parameters, ensuring optimal audio performance. Housed in a durable extruded aluminum enclosure with ferrite and bypass capacitor filtering on all inputs and outputs, it enhances resistance to EMI/RFI. The device features 6dB/octave bandpass filters ahead of the AGC mic preamp, ADC, and speaker amp to minimize background noise and prevent ADC clipping and AGC gain-pumping. It also supports full-duplex audio operation without reliance on PTT or COS signals, functioning as a standard USB audio interface across Windows, Mac, and Linux platforms.

The UCI120 is great for base station setups and can also be configured for portability. The audio quality is excellent in both directions when properly set up. David NR9V recommends a couple of videos that provide an overview of the device and to see it in action. Please take a look at “AllScan UCI120 USB Communications Interface - Ham Radio Without Antennas!” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iErFG4pUeq0>) and “AllScan ANR100-LT Radio-Less AllStar Laptop Node - UCI120 Alinco EMS-57 Full-Duplex Debian 12 ASL3” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDOfv142kIE>). While setting up the Allstarlink node requires some effort, adding the UCI120 to the node is straightforward, with comprehensive instructions available on the AllScan website (<https://www.allscan.info/products/uci120/>). Often, Allstarlink nodes are controlled using web apps such as Allscan (<https://github.com/davidgsd/AllScan#readme>), Allmon3, or Supermon, and one of these apps must be used if you are using the UCI120 without a DTMF microphone. With a DTMF microphone, the node can also be controlled

with DTMF tones, but the UCI120 operates well without a DTMF mic. I am using my MC-43 borrowed from my old Kenwood TS-570DG, and it sounds just fine.

Before purchasing, I had the opportunity to communicate with both David NR9V and Mark G1LRO. They responded quickly to my email messages, answered my questions thoroughly, and were easy to work with. To purchase the UCI120 from David NR9V, you can contact him via email, and full instructions are available on the AllScan website (<https://www.allscan.info/products/#ordering>). He also has an eBay store (<https://www.ebay.com/usr/www-allscan-info>). Mark G1LRO has an eBay store, which may be found at <https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/gu1lro>, and his webpage may be found at <https://g1lro.uk/>.

I am enjoying the UCI120 and would recommend it to those interested in a pleasant way to use Allstarlink, Echolink and other modes.

References:

Allscan website

- Overview - <https://www.allscan.info/>
- UCI120 details and setup instructions - <https://allscan.info/products/uci120/>
- Purchase instructions - <https://allscan.info/products/#ordering>

G1LRO website

- Overview - <https://g1lro.uk/>
- UCI120 details - <https://g1lro.uk/?p=794>

ebay stores

- Allscan - <https://www.ebay.com/usr/www-allscan-info>
- G1LRO - <https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/gu1lro>

Allstarlink

- Home page - <https://allstarlink.github.io/>
- Getting started - <https://allstarlink.github.io/basics/>

Youtube videos

- "AllScan UCI120 USB Communications Interface - Ham Radio without Antennas!" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iErFG4pUeq0>)

- “AllScan ANR100-LT Radio-Less AllStar Laptop Node - UCI120 Alinco EMS-57 Full-Duplex Debian 12 ASL3”
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDOfv142kIE>)
- “AllStarLink ASL Version 3 RELEASED!!”
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeuj-yl8qrU&t=823s>)
- “AllScan on ASL 3 - Guide for AllStarLink Ver 3
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2koi973xdD8>)
- “DVSwitch Server for AllStarLink Version 3 - Part 1”
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q73vW2tZVco&t=12s>)
- “DVSwitch Server for AllStarLink Version 3 – Part 2”
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HlVs9rC5pgE&t=466s>)



Mission

The International Radio Network's mission is to promote the amateur radio hobby to those interested in radio communications. We welcome licensed and non-licensed operators, giving those with an interest the opportunity to gain experience in radio communications, theory, technology and fellowship.

The International Radio Network has been in existence for many years and has a considerable number of licensed amateur radio operators from all around the world. We also welcome unlicensed radio enthusiasts and short wave listeners to our membership, many of which go on to achieve their own amateur radio license.

Membership and Getting Connected

If you are not already a member of the IRN, it is free and easy to do so. Just visit our website www.irn.radio and click on 'Register'. Follow the instructions and we will be delighted to include your Amateur Radio Callsign on our database, and if you are not licensed, we will provide you with an IRN Callsign/Number. Licensed members have full access to all our connections, and non-licensed members have access to the connections that have no RF links.

Importantly, to be 'trusted' on our Zello channels, or to be given 'talk permissions' on the Teamspeak platform, you must register using the above link on the website.

Purpose, Aims and Objectives

To provide a reliable radio Network for the use by licensed radio amateurs, offering a range of methods and modes of communication, including analogue and digital modes

To build partnerships and connections with other amateur radio Groups and Networks

To provide regular nets, special events and other activities that promote the use of the Network and for the benefit and enjoyment of its members and users

To welcome unlicensed members and provide them with support to learn about the amateur radio hobby, ham radio etiquette and encourage them to apply for their own amateur radio license

To provide unlicensed members with a reliable platform on which to communicate and experience ham radio practice, with NO RF connection

To ensure that the Network is a safe and family-friendly place at all times, and take quick action where that is threatened in any way

To experiment with new technologies and modes of amateur radio operating.

IRN Nets

Several of our nets are open to all operators, and may be heard on 'International Radio Network Channel' and 'ZMR 851.065' on Zello and the 'IRN QSO and Nets Channel' on TeamSpeak 3. They are:

IRN Sunday net – first and last Sunday of every month, 8:00pm Eastern, 1:00am Monday UK time, hosted by Barry 8WAR717. Watch Facebook for updates to the schedule.

Friendship net - every Monday, 5:00pm Eastern, 10:00pm UK time with regular Net Controller VE6DCV Dave.

Coffee net - every Wednesday, 5:00pm Eastern, 10:00pm UK time with regular Net Controller 11IRN610 Shorn.

The following net is accessible only to licensed operators, as it is a multimode net that connects to licensed only platforms and RF. We have a permanent connection with the Extended Freedom Network so you can also use any of their links to connect with the IRN

KB1 Multimode net - every Friday, 4:00pm Eastern, 9:00pm UK time with regular Net Controllers MM7HQS Helen, GM0UUB Graham and GW8SZL Dave.

For full details of the Nets and connections, please visit <https://www.irn.radio/nets>

IRN Administration Team

Graham M Matthews GM0UUB - President, Ralph Streb K8TCP, Doug Behl VE3XDB, Helen Matthews MM7HQS, Bruce Lenton M0UKB, Gareth Steele G0WUR, Dave Phillips GW8SZL, Gareth Jackson M6IGJ. Contact members of the admin team at <https://irn.radio/contact> or by email at irnhamradio@gmail.com.

Invitation for Contributions and Contact Information

We invite all members to add content to the Newsletters, to share personal stories, technical information, equipment reviews, radio-related jokes or fun-facts, other hobbies and interests, and anything else that would be of interest to our members. For example, personal stories about what got you into the radio hobby are always interesting. You can also email us with any questions, comments or ideas.

Contact us at <https://irn.radio/contact> or by email at irnhamradio@gmail.com.